

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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### **REMARKS BY**

## **U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA ON THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF USAID**

**DHAKA  
JANUARY 12, 2012**

Minister of Finance Muhith;

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque;

Honored Guests and Friends;

Welcome to this joyous occasion! Welcome to USAID's celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

I would like to introduce some heroes ...

Jahangir Howladar ... hero ... builder of the new Bangladesh.

Jahangir is a farmer from Kashipur Village. His land was devastated by Cyclone Sidr. Now, thanks to the USAID and Bangladesh partnership, Jahangir is an agricultural leader of his community.

Sabiha Begum ... hero ... builder of the new Bangladesh.

Sabiha is from Natore. Thanks to the USAID and Bangladesh partnership, she adopted family planning methods to gain freedom to determine the size of her family.

Halima Khatun ... hero ... builder of the new Bangladesh.

Halima, from Cox's Bazaar, used to log illegally. Thanks to the USAID and Bangladesh partnership, Halima participated in a job skills program and now earns a good profit selling the bamboo baskets she makes. She has given up illegal logging.

I could stand here for days ... literally ... reciting one by one the thousands and thousands and thousands of Bangladeshis who have benefited from the development partnership of USAID and Bangladesh. Actually, I am tempted to recite all those names, as development is

people, people with names, with families, people with hopes, dreams, aspirations for a better future for themselves and their children.

The United States Agency for International Development, USAID, is about people, about partnership with Bangladesh to improve the well-being of the wondrous people of this nation. Since the birth of Bangladesh over 40 years ago, USAID has endeavored to help the people of Bangladesh – first, as they forged a new nation from the ruins of war and then as they rebuilt from the devastation of successive natural disasters. To this end, the American people – through USAID – have contributed over \$5.8 billion to this partnership with Bangladesh.

But development is not measured by dollars or taka; it is measured by people, by the progress people are making in improving their lives and their livelihoods. Food security, access to family planning, education, health care, energy, environment, democracy ... this is how we measure quality of life. As Jahangir, Sabiha and Halima and thousands of other heroes of Bangladesh will attest, USAID, in partnership with Bangladesh, has done much to improve the lives of so many Bangladeshis on all of these fronts.

Fifty years ago President John F. Kennedy had a vision, a vision of global prosperity and security made possible by human progress. To help realize this vision, President Kennedy created USAID. This new agency had the mandate to help people help themselves in building a better life for themselves and their children.

I believe President Kennedy would be pleased and proud of what his creation has done and continues to do here in Bangladesh, in partnership with the people of Bangladesh. This partnership has a long and growing list of achievements ranging from helping to establish ICDDR,B, the Social Marketing Company and Bangladesh Agriculture University ... to making family planning available ... to improving education, nutrition, maternal and child health, and so much more. The photo exhibit tells the story best.

I am pleased that the USAID – Bangladesh is as strong and dynamic as ever. Today, new partnership initiatives such as Feed the Future, the Global Health Initiative and the Global Climate Change Initiative promise to bring ever greater hope to millions more Bangladeshis.

I am proud both of the USAID-Bangladesh legacy and the prospects for an even more productive partnership in the future ... to the benefit of the people of America, of the region, and, most especially, of Bangladesh.

Thank you all for joining with us here tonight on this very special evening!

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